

For two and a quarter centuries, the society has set an impressive example for all physicians and served as a leader on countless issues that impact the health of our citizens. Early member physicians founded the Yale School of Medicine, the State's first general hospital—now known as Yale-New Haven Hospital—the world's first tumor registry, and many other medical milestones that have shaped the health of Connecticut and the Nation.

Most recently, the society has been at the forefront of efforts to combat the current addiction crisis and opioid abuse by working with policymakers to enact State laws tightening opioid prescribing, expanding knowledge and understanding of opioid addiction, and providing greater access to treatment. The society has also worked for many years to educate physicians, patients, and the general public on opioid abuse, as well as mental and behavioral health issues.

To its credit, the society goes beyond improving the quality of health services for the people of Connecticut. It has strongly advocated for affordable and accessible health insurance coverage while fighting against harmful consolidations of healthcare facilities that would result in less health service availability at a higher cost. The society is helping to address inequities in health services and disparities in health outcomes. Further, the society is a strong advocate for transparency throughout the entire healthcare insurance delivery system, ensuring its health services are easy to understand.

Steeped in rich history but always forward thinking, the Connecticut State Medical Society is a catalyst for positive change. I applaud the society's accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut State Medical Society for its 225 years of service.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES F. KNIGHT

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and contributions of a great man who passed away from complications of Alzheimer's on September 12, 2017, at the age of 81.

Charles Knight, or Chuck, as he was known to everyone, might have been born across the river in Illinois and loved a second home in Glen Lake, MI, but he spent his life as a Missourian.

In 1973 Chuck Knight joined Emerson. At that time, he became the youngest CEO to head a U.S. billion-dollar corporation. Within 5 years, the business press was hailing the leadership of Chuck Knight, and it was appropriate to do so then, and for the full 27 years, he served as Emerson's CEO. Because he was so well regarded, he was sought out to serve on a number of corporate boards, including Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, IBM, Baxter International, BP, Caterpillar, Morgan Stanley, and the Olin Foundation.

Between 1973 and 2000, Emerson grew from a dozen divisions generating total

revenues of \$1 billion to more than 60 businesses with revenues totaling over \$15 billion. International sales grew from 12 percent of the total to almost 40 percent. Emerson's record of increased earnings per share and dividends for each year of Mr. Knight's tenure as CEO was among the longest in U.S. business.

Chuck was a passionate leader. In a 1989 cover story, *Fortune* wrote that his "intensity level is about 327 on a scale of 1 to 10." His intensity, passion, and, most likely, his integrity, inspired commitment and loyalty from his management team, his employees, his competitors, and his friends.

Chuck's passion extended to his adopted hometown of St. Louis, MO. He didn't just offer his support; Chuck provided his personal advocacy and leadership to many organizations, including the Matthews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club and the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center, serving children in the city of St. Louis. He led the major capital campaign for Washington University in St. Louis, and for decades, he worked closely with the Olin Business School, where he helped fund the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. His efforts were always to make a real and lasting impact.

Chuck married his high school sweetheart in 1957. Their joint philanthropy has resulted in countless benefits to the entire St. Louis area, including the Joanne Knight Breast Health Center at the Siteman Cancer Center and the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the Washington University School of Medicine. Chuck and Joanne have been leading examples of the importance of giving back to one's community.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Joanne, and his four children and their families. He will be remembered as a loving husband, a caring father, a passionate leader, and a great friend. He made a difference.●

REMEMBERING GENE SULLIVAN

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansan Gene Sullivan. Gene will forever be remembered as the great optimist with the can-do attitude and endless determination. There was no project too small and, certainly, no project too large that he wouldn't tackle with his trademark tenacity. Gene led a life dedicated to the outdoors and was a man of great faith.

While there are many remarkable stories that we remember about Gene, I want to share a personal letter that he sent to his grandchildren on his 81st birthday. On February 8, 2017, Gene wrote the following:

As I sit in my easy chair in the early morning of my 81st birthday, I give thanks to the Lord for how He has blessed me throughout my life with love and mercy rather than justice. I want to share with you some things I know to be true and pray that you will con-

sider them in your short journey through this life on earth.

(1) God's judgement of how you live your life is the only one that is really important. (2) The Bible provides God's directions for having a successful life. Read it and live it. (3) When you are older and look back, you will not regret any time you spent with family, serving the Lord and loving and serving others.

I love you and you are one of the blessings of my life.

He also included two Scriptures for them to read and contemplate.

Deuteronomy 11:1: "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His precepts, and His commandments [it is your obligation to Him]."

1 John 4:20: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

As we mourn the loss of this Arkansas leader, I think it would serve us all well to reflect upon the timeless wisdom that he passed along to his grandchildren on his 81st birthday.●

RECOGNIZING PJM INTERCONNECTION

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment for the Senate to recognize and honor the work of the PJM Interconnection and its 600 employees in Valley Forge, PA. This month, the company celebrates the 90th anniversary of its founding, as well as the 20th anniversary of its formation as an independent grid operator.

PJM is a world-class institution that oversees the largest power grid in North America. PJM performs the critical function of keeping the lights on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for more than 65 million people in all or portions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

PJM began in 1927 when three utilities realized the benefits and efficiencies possible by interconnecting to share their generating resources and formed the world's first continuing power pool. Since then, PJM's work has been dedicated to ensuring that reliable electricity is available at a reasonable price.

In 1997, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved PJM as the Nation's first fully functioning independent system operator. ISOs operate but do not own transmission systems in order to provide open access to the grid for nonutility users.

Since that beginning of three utilities, PJM has grown to more than 1,000 members. Those members represent transmission owners, generation owners, consumers, and residential and commercial customers in each of its 13-state region.

PJM has three simple goals: keeping the lights on, administering the buying

and selling of electricity through wholesale electricity markets, and assessing and planning for the future needs of the electric grid. PJM has devoted itself to those goals as an industry technology innovator, operating similar to a stock exchange and developing electricity rates through a bidding process that aligns supply with demand. That PJM model is one that has been emulated not just across the country, but around the world.

As the work of PJM has reached a global scale, I am especially proud that this company continues to call Pennsylvania home and remains an integral part of our economy and electric grid infrastructure. For the last 90 years, PJM has worked to develop groundbreaking changes in electricity and technology to improve the lives of all Americans. Together with a grateful Commonwealth and a grateful nation, I take this opportunity to thank them for their last nine decades of innovation and wish them well for another 90 years of excellence and beyond.●

TRIBUTE TO STAN WILMOTH

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Stan Wilmoth, whose relentless commitment and service to his community makes us all proud to call him a fellow Nevadan.

This month, the American Cancer Society will pay tribute to Mr. Wilmoth by presenting him with their first-ever "Spirit of Hope Award." This prestigious award is given to individuals who are dedicated to their community, wellness, education, quality of life, and who advocate on behalf of the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Wilmoth is well-deserving of this award as he has an extensive record of giving back to Nevada. Whether it is serving as a volunteer fireman in Lemmon Valley for 10 years or helping advance construction of the Ronald McDonald House, we are grateful for Mr. Wilmoth's many contributions to our community and his involvement in programs like Head Start. In addition to serving as a member of the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Wilmoth has also held several other leadership board positions, including chairman of the Nevada Bankers Association and presenting sponsor of the American Cancer Society's annual fundraiser. For the past 10 years, he has been instrumental in the development of the Suits & Sneakers Gala, offering guidance and support of the American Cancer Society's mission.

For 17 years, Mr. Wilmoth has served as president and chief executive officer of Heritage Bank, which serves as a lifeline in our State's economy. Under his leadership, Heritage Bank has played a large role in getting small businesses off the ground and making northern Nevada a better region to live, work, and raise a family. In fact, the bank earned the title of "SBA Lender of the Year in Northern Ne-

vada" for the past 6 years, assisting many businesses and their families.

Before joining Heritage, Mr. Wilmoth served as vice president, northern Nevada regional loan manager for Nevada State Bank, and assistant vice president/commercial account officer and commercial service officer for U.S. Bank. He also served on the Federal Reserve Board for Community Banks for multiple years.

Mr. Wilmoth's dedication and community involvement in Nevada is a true testament to his character, and we are privileged he is one of our own. His commitment and hard work in the fight for a world without cancer is truly admirable.

In closing, I am honored and proud to recognize Stan Wilmoth for his leadership and advocacy on behalf of Nevada. I congratulate him on this remarkable achievement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Business Council of Douglas County for 25 years of striving toward a "diverse, sustainable and healthy economy" for Douglas County, NV.

The Business Council of Douglas County started in September of 1992 and consists of business owners, professionals, and industry leaders who collaborate with State, local, and Federal government institutions to identify and resolve critical matters in the business community. Ultimately, the partnership formed increases the ability of small businesses to grow, expand, and hire in Douglas County and across northern Nevada.

In 1996, Douglas County adopted a 20-year master plan designed to provide guidance to the county's future development. Just 4 years into their existence, the council was instrumental in helping to shape that plan. Their involvement presented them with a unique opportunity to share their input and better shape the county's economic future.

In addition to providing advice and insight to government entities, the Business Council of Douglas County plays a prominent role in educating the community and serving as a catalyst for debate on relevant and timely issues. By holding townhall debates and educational forums on critical issues like water and transportation, as well as forums for candidates running to serve in public office, the council has helped facilitate a community where everyone has a vested interest in the county's future.

Furthermore, the Business Council of Douglas County is striving to do more and encouraging businessowners in northern Nevada, as well as community members, to participate in the organization's efforts and to stay informed. To accomplish this, the coun-

cil distributes a weekly newsletter on topics of importance to the business community, relevant government meetings, votes, projects, and news. The council's general membership hosts a monthly breakfast with guest speakers at no charge because all meetings are open to members and their invited guests. They also host an annual critical issues conference. This year's conference is another way for them to discuss important issues to the county and its ability to grow the economy.

The Business Council of Douglas County's efforts and priorities go hand-in-hand with my fight in Washington, DC, to foster an economic climate that allows small businesses to invest, grow, and hire across the State. Having served in the Nevada Legislature and currently as our State's senior Senator, I can attest to the significance of the council and the partnership they have formed with all levels of government.

In closing, I am honored and proud to recognize the Business Council of Douglas County for 25 years of tireless advocacy on behalf of the entire community. Through years of hard work, planning, and educational efforts, the Douglas County business community has an open and transparent dialogue with their State, local, and Federal officials. The partnership that has developed will not only continue to grow but benefit the community for years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3354. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with